

feeding nearby, would send it scuttering back into its sanctuary. If all was quiet, it would begin its feeding, probing much in the manner of the snipes, but it was noticeable that its movements were always accompanied by a nervous fore-and-aft bobbing movement of its body.

When flushed from its roost, it flew in a characteristically sluggish, rail-like fashion with its pale olive-green legs hanging almost vertically beneath its body. It flew only a short distance to other dense herbage but within a timed half-an-hour had returned by stealthy movements through the reeds and grasses to its original roosting place.

At one time, it occurred to me that a male might be sitting on eggs in the vicinity—it being known that the female takes little or no part in such domestic activities—but careful search failed to reveal a nest. However, these birds are recorded as being unusually close sitters, so there may be a nest, and as the young of this species has never been accurately described, my patient watch will be continued during the next few weeks.

THE CHESTNUT-BANDED PLOVER AT LAKE MANYARA, NORTHERN TANGANYIKA

By

A. M. MORGAN-DAVIES

(*Park Warden, Lake Manyara.*)

From the account by Praed and Grant (1957), the breeding records of the Chestnut-Banded Plover, *Charadrius venustus* Fischer & Reichenow, are confined to Lake Magadi, Kenya Colony. In fact, owing possibly to this apparent single recorded breeding area, the species has acquired the subsidiary name of the Lake Magadi Plover.

An extension to the breeding records of this species must now be made to include Lake Manyara, Northern Tanganyika. Apart from being quite plentiful almost throughout the year, it has been recorded breeding during 1959 and 1960. On the 11th August, 1959, I watched a fledgling emerge from a clutch of two eggs on the eastern shore of the lake. In 1960 numerous fledglings were seen during July, August and September. During these months Chestnut-Banded Plovers are definitely more numerous, which may indicate the possibility of a local seasonal movement up and down the Rift Valley between Kenya and Tanganyika.

Between 11.10 a.m. and 12 noon on the 23rd July, 1960, I watched a pair of these birds nest building, courting and copulating. The male bird was noted first hollowing out a nest site with its feet and wings. While he was doing this, the female made periodic visits to see how he was progressing, on each occasion ejecting him from the nest and trying it out for size. After the third visit by the female, the male approached her from the rear and, after about four to six very pronounced "goose steps" just by her tail, hopped on to her back. With a firm grip on the back of the female he copulated for a few seconds and then fell over backwards pulling the female over with him. In this upside down attitude they remained for a few seconds before regaining their feet.

It is interesting to note that Barry (1960) noted a very similar courting and copulating pattern in a pair of Kittlitz' Plovers in South Africa.

References

1957. MACKWORTH-PRAED AND GRANT: "Birds of Eastern and North-Eastern Africa."
1960. BARRY, D. H.; *Bokmakierie*; Vol. 12, No. 1.

(Received October, 1960)

REPORT ON BIRD RINGING — 1960

It was regrettable that due to illness Mr. Reynolds had to resign as Executive Officer, Bird Ringing, after he had done the bulk of the preliminary organisation.

The following is an addition to bring his last report of 21st June, 1960, up to date: RINGS.

These are now available in the following sizes:

- 3 mm. at 8/- per 100 — suitable for smaller shrikes, very small waders, etc.
4.5 mm. at 10/- per 100 — smaller waders, dunlin, sandpipers, large passerines.
5.25 mm. at 13/- per 100 — large waders, e.g. grey plover and ruff, small duck, e.g. Cape teal.
11 mm. at 21/- per 100 — large duck, geese, glossy ibis, large herons.

These have been stamped with "SEND MUSEUM NAIROBI" and have the serial number. We regret that we are unable to supply rings free to members, and request that as these rings are being supplied at cost price, money for postage should be included.

Pliers for 11 mm. rings are available. Others are on order.

COLOUR RINGS.

A small stock of these is available at 1/25 per doz. (small size only).

SCHEDULES.

These are sent free with orders for rings.

It must be mentioned here that it is illegal for anyone to trap birds without first obtaining a permit to do so from the Game Department.

REPORT ON RINGING done by A. CARTER and E. J. BLENCOWE

KENYA.

Sewage Works, Eastleigh, Nairobi.

Yellow Wagtails (*Budytes flava* [Linnaeus]).

Ringling of these birds commenced towards the end of November, 1960. Mist nets were used with some success. Up to 3rd December, 1960, some eighty-three wagtails had been ringed.

The main difficulties we encountered in netting these birds were:—

- (i) The high wind in the area made positioning the nets difficult and a good many birds 'bounced' out of the taut nets;
- (ii) The birds quickly learn the position of the nets. Almost all birds caught were caught within the first hour in each net. The nets then had to be moved;
- (iii) Wastage of time frightening wagtails from the nets, due to catching local birds such as shrikes and weavers which have an unfortunate way of becoming thoroughly entangled in the nets.

Unfortunately most of the yellow wagtails at this time of year are in winter plumage, and so it was not possible to identify female and young.